(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) As per the provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, all units, whether domestic or export oriented, are required to comply with the pollution control standards.

Changes in the Guidelines of National Calamity Fund

1560. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring certain changes in the guidelines of National Calamity Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

UNESCO's views about formal Education

1561. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the UNESCO's recent shift in focus to the exclusive promotion of formal education and technical skills;

(b) if so, the details of the UNESCO's views about the formal education and technical skills; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As per the approved Medium Term Strategy (1996—2001) of UNESCO, the first thrust of UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy will focus on fostering basic education for all. It will concentrate on expanding access to basic education, giving priority to those whose needs are patently greater, to reaching the unreached and providing learning that goes beyond traditional frontiers. In addition, the elimination of illiteracy among both youth and adults also be an important objective. It will also aim to improve the quality, relevance and usefulness of the education provided.

The second thrust will be to renovate education system involving inter-alia, better linkage between general and vocational education, strengthening science and technology streams, worldwide collaboration among specialists, fostering partnerships between education sector and industry, agriculture, labour and private sector.

(c) The Government is committed to providing priority to Education for All which includes a two pronged strategy of universalising adult literacy and universalisation of elementary education. In addition, other areas in eduation by secondary, higher, vocational and technical education also form part of the composite framework of Government's schemes.

Cooperative Societies in Punjab

1562. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cooperative societies functioning in Punjab;

(b) the types of assistance provided through these cooperative societies by Government; and

(c) the items, alongwith their quantities, distributed district-wise in Punjab during the last three years by such societies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) There are 15803 Cooperative societies functioning in the State of Punjab.

(b) Sugar and Kerosine oil at subsidised rates under the Public Distribution System through the Primary Cooperative Agriculture Service Societies is being provided by the State Government of Punjab.